TIMES-VIRGINIAN

JOB WORK A SPECIALTY — DEVOTED TO THE LOCAL AND INDUSTRIAL INTERESTS OF APPOMATTOX AND BUCKINGHAM COUNTIES. — JOB WORK A SPECIALTY

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BRIAND GIVES STERN WARNING

New French Ministry Presents Its Program to Parliament

SECURITY A SACRED DUTY

Will Use Force If It Is Necessary—Premier Is Certain His Policy Will Be Supported By Allies.

Paris.—Premier Aristide Briand presented the program of his Ministry to the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate. The Ministerial declaration was heard with intense interest and was interrupted frequently with cheers.

The program contains the following outstanding points:

Germany must disarm and pay the reparations due from her.

France has the force to compel respect for engagements taken with her and would be able to use it, if necessary, but it is in peace she wishes to bring Germany to fulfill her obligations.

Peace with Turkey must be made effective, account being taken of new circumstances.

France will not intervene in the internal affairs of Russia, but cannot admit that the soviet armies shall cross the Russian frontiers to attack the allies of France.

"We have a treaty of peace with Germany," the declaration read, "but we have not real peace as yet—a peace which will solidly establish France's essential rights and assure her security. We shall obtain that security only if Germany is disarmed. That is for us the vital question, marking out for the Government its first and most sacred duty. We shall not fail in it."

On reparations the declaration says:

"The reconstruction of our ravaged soil, our destroyed industries and the equilibrium of our finances are possible only if Germany executes the reparation clauses of the Treaty of Versailles. To this end our allies will give us their support.

"Unless the frightful iniquity of war is repaired a resumption of normal relations and commercial exchanges will remain impossible."

The declaration expresses confidence that England will aid all she can to arrive at an understanding between the Allies, which, it says, is a prime necessity to the settlement of all questions concerning peace now in suspense.

Referring to the relations of France and the United States, M. Briand declares that the imperishable bonds formed on the battlefields in the war will "guarantee our union in peace as in war."

He adds:

"We are sure our American friends will give us for the reparation of the damages we sustained the same support that decided the victory in the great war, in which we defended together the cause of civilization."

Referring to the attitude of the United States toward the League of Nations the declaration says:

"We respect the scruples which made them hesitate to indorse a given league of nations, of which, however, they have never doubted the generous and beneficent principles."

WANTS ARMY TO TAKE SONS.

Ozark Farmer Despairs Of Rearing 11 On 60 Acres.

Washington.—Army recruiting literature cast a little ray of sunshine into the life of an Ozark farmer in Missouri with 11 children to support on 60 acres of "run down" land.

Noting educational features of army life, the Missourian wrote Adjutant-General Harris forspecial permission to enlist the second oldest of nine sons and a pair of twins, all just under age. The boys "are large for their ages and will grade well up to the average country boy in looks and intelligence" he said.

TO FIGHT BLUE SUNDAY.

League Incorporated In New York For Campaign.

Albany, N. Y.—The No Blue Sunday League, Inc., was incorporated with Secretary of State John Lyons. The corporation, according to the statement filed, was formed to promote activities which shall restrain the making of "annoying, harassing and unfair blue Sunday laws" and also to do any act in compliance with the law "which shall inure to the benefit of persons interested in the limitation of blue Sunday laws."

PRISON FOR EX-PREACHER.

Mixed Auto Thefts With Expounding Gospel.

Richmond, Va.—Bryant Allen Norris, who testified that he had expounded the Gospel in North Carolina for six years as a circuit minister, was sentenced to five years' imprisonment for theft of an automobile. He was twice extradited from San Francisco on similar charges and told the court he attributed his fall from grace to wine and women.

CEMETERY ADOPTS BLUE LAWS.

Yielding To Demands Of Ministers, Directors Ban Sunday Funerals.

McKeesport, Pa.—Yielding to the demands of the Ministerial Association here for a ban on Sunday funerals, the directors of the Richland Cemetery have agreed to obey the letter of the blue laws, and the directors of the Versailles Cemetery are considering the question.

WOULD MAKE CHILDLESS WOMEN ASSIST MOTHERS.

Washington. — Letters under Brooklyn date, signed "Wives and Mothers of Industrial Workers," reached members of Congress, asking for a law to require childless married women under 60 to do housework three days a week for mothers with children and also for an eight-hour day housewives.

"Congress should realize," it said, "that legislation should be less and less in favor of industrial workers, and more and more to alleviate and improve the condition of the overworked, underpaid, dishwashing housewife."

MOTHER NEARLY WIPES OUT FAMILY

She Kills Three of Her Children and Herself

WAS ILL FROM INFLUENZA

Only One Shot Had Missed—Farmer Hicks, Worn Out By Constant Nursing, Had Been Given Sedative.

Winchester, Va.—The family of Stanley Hunter Hicks, farmer, living near here, was almost entirely wiped out when his wife, Mrs. Mary Hicks, probably demented from after effects of influenza, shot and killed three of her four children and then herself.

The dead children are: Walter, aged 6; Margaret, aged 5, and Stewart, aged 3. The heads of all were blown almost entirely off. The position of Walter's body indicated he had tried to shield himself by throwing up his arm.

Hicks, worn out by nursing his wife and children, all of whom have been indisposed, had been given a sedative by the family physician, and was asleep upstairs. He said he heard only the last shot.

His eldest daughter, Mary, aged nine, who was in a bed near her father's, said she was awake and saw her mother come up stairs, get a single-barrel shotgun and go down. She was unable to awaken her father, before the shooting began, and was herself afraid to go down. She could hear the children screaming. Meanwhile the crazed mother had shot and reloaded the gun four times. She fired five shots, one missing.

Finally Hicks was aroused and rushed down stairs just to see Mrs. Hicks fire the gun, killing herself.

The walls, ceiling and furniture of the room resembled a shamble. Taking Mary in his arms, the father, half dressed, ran a mile to the home of his father, Edward M. Hicks, and physicians and officers were called.

The authorities were satisfied the woman committed the act while deranged. She had complained for several days of severe pains in her head and spine.

CHARGED WITH MURDER.

Mrs. Wm. Thweatt Was Insured For $23,000.

Aberdeen, Miss.—Wm. A. Thweatt, a planter, was arrested on a warrant charging murder in connection with the death of his wife, who perished in a fire that destroyed the Thweatt home near here December 6. A coroner's jury found that Mrs. Thweatt was insured for $23,000; payable to her husband, and that when he was awakened by smoke, he dressed and packed some of his belongings before going to a spring for water to fight the fire.

SHE REFUSES CHAPLAINSHIP.

$1,200 Salary In House Too Little To Live On, Woman Says.

Washington.—Miss Clara Morgan, pastor of a Universalist Church in Perry, N. Y., the only known woman candidate for chaplain of the House of Representatives, has withdrawn because the salary, $1,200 per annum, is not sufficient for her to live in Washington.

AN AUTHOR WEDS.

Owen Johnson, Son Of U. S. Ambassador To Italy.

New York.—Owen Johnson, author and son of Robert Underwood Johnson, American ambassador to Italy, was married here to Miss Catherine Sayre Burton, prominent socially. The ceremony was performed in St. George's Chapel. This is Mr. Johnson's fourth matrimonial venture. His first two wives are dead and the third divorced him in 1917 at Reno.

$13,511 FOR JONES' BODY QUEST.

That Sum Would Be Paid By Measure Reported In House.

Washington.—Payment of $13,511 to the Government of France would be authorized in a bill reported by the House Foreign Affairs Committee. The money would be transferred to Madame Crignier, a French subject, for losses sustained during the search of her property several years ago for the body of John Paul Jones.

POLES PREPARE FOR FIGHT.

Moscow Wireless Reports Activity In Danzig.

London.—Trains are arriving daily in Danzig, loaded with artillery supplies, bomb throwers and ammunition for the Polish Army, says a wireless message from Moscow, quoting reports from Danzig. The Polish Army, the dispatch adds, is hurriedly being organized under the direction of French officers.

DUTCH TO OUST HOHENZOLLERNS

Said to Have Requested Them to Leave Holland

INTERVIEW A SMOKE SCREEN

Kaiser And His Son Reported Plotting —Plan For Seizure Of Throne By Ex-Crown Prince Suspected.

Berlin.—Berlin was excited over reports from The Hague that the former German Kaiser had been requested to leave Doorn because of his part in an alleged monarchist plot to restore the Hohenzollerns to power.

Reports here said an official request had been made by the Netherlands on the Kaiser and the Crown Prince to leave their asylums in Holland, but there was no indication that preparations had been made to obey what practically was an order.

One version of the plots, which were said to have been planned in Amsterdam with personal servants of the former royal family, was that the Crown Prince would make a surprise entry into Berlin at the head of loyal monarchist soldiers. The loyalty of the men was said to have been guaranteed by officers.

Radical papers here apparently believed the reports and commented upon the formation of the royalist party and other organizations favorable to a monarchy.

Recent interviews by the Crown Prince, in which he described himself as a simple family man, interested only in the education of his children, were looked upon by the Liberals as part of a "smoke screen" for the actual plotting.

Friedrich Wilhelm, in one interview, declared he was exceedingly poor now and that he was homesick for Germany. He declared he wanted to help the present regime restore his country to her place in the world.

"I have been forbidden to visit my parents at Doorn," he declared. "Our opponents still believe us capable of setting the world on fire."

Dutch Official Visits Doorn.

Doorn.—Dr. Kan, Secretary-General of the Dutch Ministry of the Interior, has arrived here to discuss matters relating to the former Kaiserin's illness, it was announced.

Much discussion has been evoked by the reported determination of German authorities not to permit burial of the former Kaiserin in Germany, should she die here. The authorities were reported to believe the pomp of a royal funeral might awaken the monarchists.

WAR ALLOWANCE TAXABLE.

Veterans Denied Exemption From Income Levy.

Washington.—Unmarried war veterans must return to the Government as income tax 4 per cent. of any disability payments they receive in excess of $1,000 a year. The Treasury Department ruled that it could not under the law exempt such former service men, although those still in the service are required to pay only on amounts in excess of $3,500 a year. War risk insurance payments, however, are not taxable.

WILSON STILL IMPROVES.

Only Unexpected Setback Will Stop Participation In Inauguration.

Washington. — President Wilson's condition continues to show such improvement that only an unexpected setback will cause him to abandon his wish to participate in the inauguration of President-elect Harding, Rear Admiral Cary Grayson, the President's physician, said. Grayson said he felt certain the President would be able to ride down Pennsylvania avenue to the Capitol with Harding for the ceremonies.

KITCHIN TO RETAIN POST.

Will Not Resign Place On Ways And Means Committee.

Washington.—Representative Claude Kitchin, of North Carolina, ranking Democrat of the House Committee on Ways and Means, has reconsidered his decision to resign from the committee so that he might devote all his time to the duties of the minority leader of the next House. Mr. Kitchin said he had determined to stay on the committee. He expects to be selected minority leader just the same, but will hold down both jobs.

TO GOVERN TRAINS.

Wireless Soon To Be Used For Dispatching In The South.

Louisville.—Transaction of railroad business by wireless soon will be a reality in the South, according to announcement here by Telegraph Superintendent R. R. Hobbs of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. The Company has purchased wireless outfits and will install them at Louisville, New Orleans, Pensacola and Mobile for the general message service of the Company.

COOLIDGE TO REST IN SOUTH.

Vice-President-elect Will Attend Southern Tariff Congress.

Northampton, Mass.—Calvin Coolidge, Vice-President-elect, who will attend the Southern Tariff Congress at Atlanta, January 27, 28 and 29, probably will remain in the South for a short rest. Coolidge had not decided Monday where he will spend his vacation. It was believed that he may make no choice until he reaches Atlanta.

D'ANNUNZIO BIDS FAREWELL TO FIUME AFTER SPEECH.

Trieste.—Gabriele d'Annunzio left Fiume by auto. His departure was pathetic. The poet made a long speech in the Council Hall and Dr. Antonio Grossich, the provisional governor, replied.

The stores were closed and there was a great public demonstration.

EX-PREACHER IN BIG MAIL THEFT

Confesses After Recovery of Loot in His Home and Garages

BETRAYED BY FAT BANKROLL

Postoffice Authorities Informed By His Partners In Garage Business—$183,000 Recovered.

Mount Vernon, Ill.—Guy Kyle, former pastor of the Free Methodist Church of Mount Vernon, arrested in connection with the theft here of 31 packages of registered mail containing $185,000 in cash, confessed he was implicated in the robbery, Postoffice inspectors announced.

The inspectors said Kyle accompanied them to one of his garages where they located $5,600 more of the stolen money, bringing the total amount recovered to about $18,300.

Kyle also implicated several others in the theft according to the inspectors who declined to go into the details of his confession.

No additional arrests have yet been made it was said.

Approximately $100,000 was recovered at the Kyle home where it was concealed in an egg crate and about $75,000 and $1,600, respectively in two garages of which Rev. Mr. Kyle is part owner.

Suspicion was directed against the former pastor when Loren Williamson, Kyles' partner in the garage business, informed the inspector that Kyle had been displaying large amounts of money in the last week.

Postoffice inspectors expressed the belief that the $27,000 in negotiable securities which also were stolen, had been burned to destroy possible clues.

Rev. Mr. Kyles is about 45 years old and came here seven years ago from Keyesport, Ill. He was pastor of the Free Methodist Church for three years and for four years has been in the garage business.

He probably will be taken to Danville for arraignment, the Postoffice inspectors added.

BAY STATE LEADS IN PAPERS.

Has Copy For Every Two Persons, Mississippi Tails List.

Montreal.—Only one copy of a daily newspaper, printed in the State of Mississippi, is distributed for every 38 residents of the State, while there is a single copy available for every two persons in Massachusetts. This was pointed out here by R. S. Kellogg, secretary of the News Print Service Bureau, at the annual meeting of the organization, an international association of paper manufacturers.

The District of Columbia, he declared, prints more papers for its size than any State. New York State is second to Massachusetts in the number of papers printed in proportion to the residents, while Missouri and California are tied for third.

TO BE PASSED TO HARDING.

Refunding U. S. Loans To Europe Meets Delay.

Washington.—Refunding of American loans to European governments will be passed along by the Treasury Department to the next administration. It was learned officially that the British representative coming here for conference and final ratification of the tentative understanding to be reached with Great Britain has postponed his departure for America, and it is indicated that this, with many other similar problems, will be delayed.

There are indications that the refunding operation may await action on the latest proposals of the reparations commissions for payment of Germany's war debt to France and other nations in the form of manufacturers and goods.

NEBRASKA WOMEN QUIT PLANE.

Take Electoral Vote By Train From Des Moines To Chicago.

Des Moines, Iowa.—Mrs. H. H Wheeler and Mrs. Draper Smith, who arrived here by airplane, en route to Washington with Nebraska's electoral vote, went to Chicago by train, weather conditions interferring with a continuation of the flight from here.

LEAGUE COUNCIL CALLED.

Will Meet At Geneva Third Week In February.

London.—The Council of the League of Nations has been summoned to meet at Geneva on February 21, it was announced today.

FINDS $21,800 IN BONDS.

Chicago Man Stumbles Over Valuable Package.

Chicago.—Bonds valued at $21,800, loosely wrapped in a newspaper, were found by D. F. Crimmins, who accidentally stumbled over the package as he entered a teaming company's office. Mr. Crimmins notified Federal officials, who began a check to ascertain if the bonds were part of the loot obtained by five bandits who stole 13 sacks of mail from a truck in the Union Station.

VIRGINIA NEWS IN SHORT ORDER

Latest Doings In Various Parts of the State

TOLD IN SHORT PARAGRAPHS

Danville.—Slight improvement was reported in the condition of John E. Hughes, wealthy local tobacconist, who was stricken with paralysis last week and who is a patient at the General Hospital.

Charlottesville.—At the January term of the Circuit Court of Madison County, John T. Hall was appointed sheriff, to succeed the late Travis J. Twyman, who held the office for thirteen years.

Norfolk.—For the first time in a decade Norfolk will have a "bread line," there being approximately 800 seamen, of all nationalities stranded here, living from hand to mouth, waiting for berth. Soup kitchens will be opened by the Salvation Army, while the Union Mission is maintaining open house for the unfortunates.

Danville.—The executive committee of the Danville Tobacco Board of Trade, which has become a board of inquiry, will not complete its inquisition into alleged unfair practices for several days and several more sessions will be held before a report to the trade organization will be submitted.

Danville.—Danville teachers have presented a petition to the city school board asking for increases in their salary. They are asking for $100 bonus and $1,200 per annum for such teachers who have taught ten years or more in the Danville schools. They ask for $100 increase per annum for each year until the maximum of $1,500. The petition has been referred until a future action.

Blacksburg.—The Board of Visitors of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute has decided to admit women to all the courses of the college beginning with the opening of the next session in September. The vote on this question was unanimous. It has been under consideration for some time and at this meeting of the board the president of the college definitely recommended such action.

Amherst.—A big farmers' meeting was held in the courthouse at Amherst. A representative of the Department of Agriculture was present and delivered an address. George H. Bowles, State secretary of the Farmers' Union, and O. B. Ross, county agent, also made short talks. Considering the rough weather and the condition of the roads, there was a very good attendance of farmers.

Norfolk — Norfolk's City Council unanimously passed a resolution appropriating the sum of $10,000 to stage a water carnival here in the fall. It is planned to make the event an annual one, with the expectation of eventually ranking with the famous Mardi Gras of New Orleans and New Year's celebration of Philadelphia. Mayor Albert L. Roper is sponsor for the plan, which was tested out in 1919, when the Norfolk troops came back from France. The plan has the indorsement of civic and business organizations, a number of which are expected to make large contributions to add to the spectacle.

Winchester.—The comic opera, "Pinafore," was presented at the Empire Theatre for the benefit of Winchester Memorial Hospital by the Choral Society, under the direction of Rollin Bond, of Washington; Mrs. Frank M. Reynolds and Mrs. Harry K. Russell. Starring in the cast were Dr. Robert McC. Glass, Professor Hugh S. Duffey, Thomas Burley, Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds, Victor Arthur, Sam Renner, Miss Riemann Recher, Miss Virginia Cover Russell, Miss Susan Reid Williams and Mr. W. Nelson Page. A number of dinner parties were given before the performance, and supper and dances were held thereafter.

Charlottesville.—The funeral of Col. Charles H. Withrow, aged 83, Confederate veteran and a widely known educator, was held from the Presbyterian Church in Waynesboro, the service being conducted by Dr. D. K. Walthall. Colonel Withrow was a son of the late William Withrow, and a member of one of the best known families of Augusta County. He was educated at the University of Virginia in the early fifties, and was chief of ordnance in the Confederate army, serving throughout that conflict with an enviable record. After the war he taught school, first in Kentucky, and later in Augusta, Ga., where he was principal of an academy.

Lynchburg.—Two important Federal condemnation cases which were to have been tried this week in the Federal District Court here have been continued for later hearing because of a slight indisposition which prevented Judge Henry C. McDowell from presiding.

Lynchburg.—Railway mail clerks operating out of the chief clerk's office here report that all kinds of mail matter is running very heavy. Chief Clerk Poston declares that the volume now is heavier than it has ever been before at this time of the year.

Winchester.—Hickory nuts and shellbarks bought in Frederick County and shipped from here to Washington are selling 20 cents a peck cheaper in Center Market, that city, than they are in the local market, and beefsteak and other meats are retailed cheaper in the same market than they are here, according to a statement issued by the Woman's Civic League, which states that one of its members made a personal investigation while in Washington last week.

STATE CAPITAL

Williams To Join Bank.

Richmond.—John Skelton Williams, Comptroller of the Currency, and one-time assistant Secertary of the Treasury, and a native of Richmond, being the son of the late John L. Williams, probably will return to this city upon the expiration of his term at the close of the present administration. At the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Richmond Trust Company it was unanimously determined to tender to Mr. Williams the position of chairman of the board of directors, an office to be created by revision of the by-laws, in the event the invitation is accepted.

Governor And Good Roads.

Governor Westmoreland Davis set the Richmond membership canvass of the Virginia Good Roads Association in motion by taking out the first membership in the city. He was visited by G. Edmond Massie, chairman of the general committee for the drive, and E. Elwood Tragle, chairman of the rotary committee on good roads.

In taking out a membership, Governor Davis declared that he was thoroughly in sympathy with the good roads movement because it was for the progress of the State. He told Mr. Massie and Mr. Tragle that probably nothing was more important in the State's development than connected highways reaching all sections. The aims of the Virginia Good Roads Association in seeking a large membership throughout the State to build up good roads sentiment and make possible an extensive better highways educational program were explained to Governor Davis, and he expressed himself as heartily in accord with the work.

10,000 Farmers To Be Invited.

Ten thousand Virginia farmers and their wives will be extended an invitation to visit the "Made in Richmond" Exposition to be held in Richmond February 21 to 26, inclusive. The farmers will be invited guests of those in charge of the exposition. A letter in the form of an invitation will be mailed them, and two tickets to the exposition inclosed. Officials of the exposition are determined to place Richmond-made products before the farmers, and will canvass Henrico and Chesterfield and adjoining counties in an effort to have a large attendance of farmers in this city during the week of the event.

While it will be impossible to mail all the 10,000 tickets direct to the farmers, the committee in charge of the affair will dispose of a majority of them in this manner. Additional tickets will be held in reserve and disposed of to farmers visiting the city during the week. All farmers in Richmond during "Exposition Week" have been asked to visit the Chamber of Commerce and secure tickets.

Electors Need Not Meet Again.

Through Senator Claude A. Swanson, it was found that there would be no occasion for recalling the Virginia electors to take further action in connection with the affidavit drawn last week. The Senator notified the Attorney-General that there would be no necessity for another meeting of the electors, that the Virginia report would be received and that the misunder standing would be adjusted. Messenger James Hayes will return to Washington with the vote later this week. The only question in the proceedings was as to the necessity of the electors individually signing the document.

Validity Of Virginia's Dry Law.

Assistant Attorney-General J. D. Hank, Jr., has returned from Washington, where he appeared before the United States Supreme Court to argue the validity of the State prohibition laws. The case in point was that of Charles Sickel, who was convicted in Hustings Court on the charge of violating the laws by transporting liquor. The point raised by Sickel's counsel was that the so-called Reed amendment superceded the State law, rendering it null and void. Sickel was fined and given a term in jail by a jury in the trial court.

Irish Republic Friends Meet.

The American Association for Recognition of the Irish Republic will hold its first State convention in Richmond February 6. The convention, which will be in session one day, will be held chiefly for the election of officers and for the perfection of the organization. D. C. O'Flaherty, national secretary, will deliver the address of welcome.

Advertisers For Mothers' Pensions.

Indorsement of "mothers' pension," which provides a fund to be paid indigent widows for the care of children, was made at a meeting of the Women's Advertising Club at Maxime's, following an address by Mrs. J. W. Durham, chairman of the legislative committee of the league. A State law enacted in 1918 provides for such a pension, but no action has been taken on the matter in Richmond. The City Council will be urged to consider the matter.

Charlottesville. — The residence of J. T. I. Wood, a farmer, residing near Free Union, this county, was totally destroyed by fire, together with most of its contents. Anderson Wood and his wife, who lived with their father, also lost their belongings. The blaze started in the garret, and had made considerable headway before it was discovered. Total loss was $18,000. There was no insurance on dwelling or furniture. About $100 in currency was also burned.

WASHINGTON SIDELIGHTS

U. S. Trying to Compromise With Japan

WASHINGTON.—A movement of influential sponsorship is under way to effect a compromise of the immigration and land ownership controversy with Japan on this basis:

First—Extension by California of its recently enacted land-holding law so as to prohibit the acquirement of title to real estate by all aliens, instead of aliens ineligible to citizenship.

Second — A revised "gentleman's agreement" under which Japan would prevent the emigration to continental United States and the Hawaiian islands of all Japanese. If this proposition meets with a favorable reception by the people of California, the legislature of that state at its forthcoming session will be asked to amend the act adopted by initiative at the November election so as to apply the land-holding prohibition to all aliens.

The Japanese government has been sounded, and has indicated that it will be willing to settle the controversy on the basis proposed.

Such a settlement would represent concessions by both parties to the dispute. Japan would yield on the exclusion from America of farmers and the relatives of Japanese already here, which classes were exempted from the terms of the existing gentleman's agreement.

California, however, was unwilling in 1913, and has continued unwilling, to prohibit all aliens from acquiring land. The extent to which European capital has been poured into the state is indicated by the fact that 30 per cent of the oil lands of California are British owned.

To Remedy the Acute Housing Shortage

SENATOR CALDER of New York recently filed with the senate a report of a special committee appointed in April to inquire into the housing shortage. The committee visited all parts of the country except the Pacific coast. In discussing his report Chairman Calder said, among other things:

"The nation has had enough of governmental operation and control of business. And so the committee has recommended the establishment of a construction bureau in the Department of Commerce which may be a clearing house for all building activities and a place where information can be obtained concerning building materials.

"Our committee has been informed that there is upward of $2,000,000,000 of savings deposits in the national banks of the country, and I have introduced a bill today which provides that 50 per cent of the savings deposits in these banks may be loaned on mortgages on real estate.

"Tax exempt securities have increased in the last five years from $3,000,000,000 to over $14,000,000,000. High taxes and exempt securities have resulted in taking from the mortgage field almost completely the private investor.

"I have introduced a bill exempting from taxation the income on mortgages when in the hands of individuals, provided that no individual shall own more than $40,000 worth of exempt mortgages.

"In the committee's report we have recommended legislation providing for exemption for the next five years of the profits on the sale of new buildings erected for dwelling purposes, provided these profits are reinvested in new buildings.

"The committee has also urged the creation of a home loan banking system in line with our farm loan bank."

New Plan to Fund Allies' Debts to U. S.

MAX EPSTEIN of Chicago, president of the General American Tank Car corporation, is the author of a plan to convert the $10,000,000,000 American loan to the allies into an international bond issue, guaranteed by the United States. "My plan," Mr. Epstein says, "will result in the benefits enumerated for the following reasons:

"Reduction in the United States government debt: Obviously the debt will be reduced to the extent of the proceeds of the sale of the international issue of bonds (less $1,000,000,000 referred to later) and will take care of United States government bond maturities for the next few years.

"United States government requirements: The reduction of the United States debt by approximately $10,000,000,000 means a saving in requirements of approximately $650,000,000 less than at present.

"Elimination of excess profit taxes: These for the present fiscal year are estimated at $1,650,000,000, which for the fiscal year following the issuance and sale of this international issue is taken care of, firstly, by reduction of $650,000,000 in requirements as explained above and by $1,000,000,000 reserved and held by the treasury out of the sale of the international issue of bonds.

"Stabilizing of foreign exchanges: The spread between the dollar and the foreign bases of money is the result, not alone of the amount of exports and imports, but is influenced by the amount of debt the foreign governments owe America, and particularly so when this debt or the interest thereon may be demanded by the United States at any time. Removing the fear of compelling payment of either the principal or interest on these debts would strengthen foreign exchange."

Congress Thunders Against Bureaucracy

BUREAUCRACY continues to be a favorite theme in congress. It is said that one person out of every 150 in the entire United States was on the civil service payroll of the federal government on July 31, 1920. War's emergency gave bureaucracy its opportunity and it rose to the occasion. It never sleeps. It grows on what it feeds. What is congress going to do about it? Well, at present it is talking.

Senator Frelinghuysen held forth at length on the subject the other day. He said, among other things:

"When war was declared in 1917 we had in the executive departments in Washington a total of 32,000 employees. A year and a half later, at the time of the signing of the armistice, we had 117,000 employees. In a year congress cut this number to 87,000. After two years of actual if not technical peace we still have 55,000 more employees in Washington than when the war began. Within the next six months we should further greatly reduce the total, and by the end of the present fiscal year we should, if it is at all possible, return to the prewar basis."

He then proceeded to set forth conditions in various bureaus. Next he mentioned the "glaring anomalies from a business point of view"—the duplications among the departments. Outside of executive departments there were 40 boards, commissions, offices and bureaus which have no supervision except from congress.

He was hopeful that the proposed budget system and reorganization of the department would cure the situation.

Uncle Sam and His Loans to His Allies

DOUBTLESS because Uncle Sam is feeling a little short of change these days, the subject of his billion-dollar loans to his allies bobs up frequently in congress. Senator McKellar said the other day in part:

"My own interpretation of the several acts of congress under which the loans were authorized is that it is the duty of the secretary of the treasury to convert these certificates of indebtedness into long-time bonds. It is wholly unbusinesslike for these debts of $9,500,000,000 to remain in their present nebulous state. We should have a definite understanding with our friends to whom we loaned this money. We should require the payment of the current interest as and when it falls due at the earliest date possible. Apparently interest was paid until 1919.

"There is now due on the principal more than nine and a half billions of dollars. There is likewise more than seven hundred million dollars of past due interest. Why the payments of interest were discontinued is a most important matter.

"It has been suggested by some that these debts should be canceled by our government. I have no sympathy with such a view. I do not believe that any of these foreign governments would suggest such a proposition.

"I take it that not one of these governments would for a moment refuse to give long-term bonds for their principal and would gladly pay the interest to the nation that furnished so large a part of the money to defend and protect them if the United States definitely told them to do so."